



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

May 10, 2006

California Congressional Delegation
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear California Congressional Delegation,

I strongly oppose any efforts to end or weaken the federal moratorium on oil and gas leasing off the coast of California and I will fight any effort to expand offshore drilling as long as I am Governor. This current movement to lift the ban is nothing more than a weak attempt to cater to oil interests in the face of high gasoline prices. I encourage you to move your focus instead to reducing our consumption of fossil fuels and supporting development of alternative fuels such as ethanol in order to diversify our energy portfolio.

The moratorium has been in place for twenty-five years and enjoys widespread support from the people of California, including bipartisan support from elected leaders. It has been widely recognized by an overwhelming majority of Californians that there are better ways to address our energy needs without populating our waters with oil platforms and adding additional scars to our beautiful coastline.

The actions taken today by the House Appropriations Committee is extremely disappointing. As a result, the federal FY07 Interior Appropriations bill that you will be asked to vote on as early as next week ends the twenty-five year bipartisan Congressional moratorium and the protection it guarantees California's coast. Moreover, the bill's provisions would allow drilling to begin just three miles from our coast. Rather than watching the sun set on the western horizon each day, millions of Californians and visitors will now see grotesque oil platforms in plain sight. I urge the Delegation to oppose these provisions and work to defeat them during the House debate. California's beautiful coastline is an integral part of our culture, our heritage and our economy. Putting it at risk would be an absolute travesty.

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The price of gasoline has risen dramatically in California, but reducing our use of fossil fuels and diversifying our energy supply would have a much greater and more direct impact on prices than drilling off shore. California has gone to great lengths to do just this. We have dedicated \$6.5 million to the Hydrogen Highway initiative to build hydrogen fueling stations and expand research for cleaner, reliable fuels; we have implemented new car standards that will reduce emissions by thirty percent in the next ten years, cutting ozone-forming pollutants by five tons per day by 2020; we have invested \$165 million to get gross polluters off of California's streets; and finally, we have created incentives to reduce gasoline consumption by making more people eligible to receive \$1,000 when they turn in gross-polluting, inefficient vehicles. California leads the nation on these initiatives.

Ending or weakening the current moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing will not result in reduced prices for consumers nor is it the foundation for a sustainable energy policy. I urge your support for renewing the OCS moratorium and your continued support for California's economy and coastal environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", written over the printed name.

Arnold Schwarzenegger